

Remarks / Arguments

The Office Action rejects Claims 1 and 10 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson. We respectfully submit that, as amended, Larson fails to fully anticipate the above claims.

As amended, the claims now require an arcuate neck to extend from a first end of the handle, and the neck must also be at least equal to the diameter of the cutting wheel. Furthermore, the handle must be adopted to receive a longitudinally extended index finger of a user. Larson does not disclose an arcuate neck extending from the handle with the handle being adapted to receive the longitudinally extended index finger of a user.

The present invention differs from prior art in that it is designed to be used without having the palm of the hand apply a downward pressure upon the cutting wheel. This palm-driven method of cutting may be deemed inelegant in certain situations. The arcuate and elongated neck, as well as the handle, enables the subject invention to be used akin to a knife wherein the generally horizontal movement of the handle is sufficient to cut. As shown in Fig. 3 of the application, the index finger is placed longitudinally on the handle with the end portion of the handle being grasped by the other fingers and thumb. It is believed that Larson is not adapted sufficiently to be used efficiently in this manner.

The Office Action rejects Claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,898 to Riley. We respectfully submit that the cited references, separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention. As amended, and as explained above, the claims now require an arcuate neck to extend from a first end of the handle with the handle being adapted to receive the

longitudinally extended index finger of a user. This feature is not shown or taught in either Larson or Riley.

The Office Action rejects Claims 4 and 6-9 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,565 to Arend. We respectfully submit that the cited references, separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention. As amended, and as explained above, the claims now require an arcuate neck to extend from a first end of the handle with the handle being adapted to receive the longitudinally extended index finger of a user. This feature is not shown or taught in either Larson or Arend.

The Office Action rejects Claims 5 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,428,898 to Hawkins and in view of . We respectfully submit that the cited references, separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention. As amended, and as explained above, the claim now requires that the handle be adapted to receive the longitudinally extended index finger of a user. Neither Larson or Hawkins shows or teaches of a device that is adapted to be used in that manner.

The Office Action rejects Claim 5 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,428,898 to Hawkins and in view of . We respectfully submit that the cited references, separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention.

The Office Action rejects Claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,428,898 to Hawkins and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,898 to Riley. We respectfully submit that the cited references,

separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention. As amended, and as explained above, the claim now requires that the handle be adapted to receive the longitudinally extended index finger of a user. Neither Larson or Hawkins or Riley, separately or in combination, displays or teaches of a device that is adapted to be used in that manner.

The Office Action rejects Claim 17 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,286,349 to Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,428,898 to Hawkins and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,898 to Riley. We respectfully submit that the cited references, separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention. As amended, and as explained above, the claim now requires that the handle be adapted to receive the longitudinally extended index finger of a user. Neither Larson or Hawkins or Riley, separately or in combination, displays or teaches of a device that is adapted to be used in that manner.


The Office Action rejects Claims 14-16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,565 to Arend in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,428,898 to Hawkins. We respectfully submit that the cited references, separately or in combination, do not disclose or teach the claimed invention. As amended, the claimed method requires that the index finger is placed longitudinally on the handle with the end portion of the handle being grasped by the other fingers and thumb. Alone or in combination, neither Arend or Hawkins discloses or teaches this step.

The Office Action rejects the drawings as not showing the finger ridge portions required in claim 11. In order to expedite the examination of this application, claim 11 has been deleted. As such, the objections to the drawings are now considered moot.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss these claims further, or should an Examiner's Amendment be needed in order for the claims to proceed to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Please charge the deposit account (50-1212 Ref. No. 10211783) of the undersigned for all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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